## TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CAPITOL OFFICE:
PO. BOX 2910
AUSTIN: TEXAS 78768-2910
512-463-0740
EMAIL:LON.BURNAM@HOUSE.STATE.TX.US



DISTRICT OFFICE: 1067 W. MAGNOLIA FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76104 817-924-1997

Received & Inspected JUL 3 \*\* 2007

FCC Mail Room

June 27, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW Washington, DC 20554

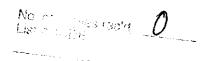
Re: Docket Item #07-16

Dear Secretary:

Lack of access to the internet is a critical issue facing our country. The internet is becoming increasingly necessary for schools, businesses, and citizens to access important information. Yet many of our citizens remain unable to access the internet due to the cost or limited connectivity in their area.

It is my understanding that only 41 percent of households that make less than \$20,000 use the internet while only 42 percent of American homes have broadband connections. The education of our children is also being impacted as only 44 percent of Hispanic students and 47 percent of African American students use the internet. As a country, we rank 21st in broadband penetration, right behind Estonia.

We should be able to do better as a nation in providing easy and affordable access to the internet. It is important to our future. Children use it for their homework, consumers use it to resource products and shop, businesses use it to link to their customers, and governments use it as a way of providing vital information to citizens.



I understand the FCC has a proposal from M2Z Networks not yet scheduled for a hearing that would provide free nationwide broadband service across America. I hope the FCC will give this proposal serious consideration, along with other proposals that will provide easier and more affordable access to the working families and small businesses of our nation.

It is important that as we work to get more connected as a country, we make sure that there is not a digital divide in our nation between those with access to the internet and those who cannot because of economic or geographical reasons.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Lon Burnam

CC: FCC Chairman Kevin Martin

Lon Burnem

United State Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson

United States Senator John Cornyn

United States Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson